

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-42 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 43-49 are sought to be added. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 43-49 are pending in the application, with 43 being the independent claim. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Formal Drawings

Formal drawings are being submitted herewith. Acceptance of the formal drawings by the Examiner is requested.

Objection to the Figures

The Examiner objected to the figures under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as failing to show claimed subject matter. This is considered moot based on the canceling without prejudice of claims 11-42, except for the electrostatic charge structure. Applicants refer the Examiner to paragraph [0030] of the instant specification for support to electrostatic charge technology used to hold a reticle to a reticle plate, the specific structure of which is not being claimed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant requests that the Examiner consider and acknowledge documents electronically submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement August 18, 2003, receipt of which was acknowledged electronically the same day.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs

Applicants believe these rejections are rendered moot by the canceling of claims 11-42. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b and e) and 103(a)

Claims 11 and 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,636,964 to Somekh et al. ("Somekh"). Claims 11-13, 16-17, 21, 24-25, 28-29, 32-34, 36, 39, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,499,777 to Wang ("Wang"). Claims 23 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) ("103") as being obvious over Wang. Claims 26-27 and 41-42 were rejected under 103 as being obvious over Somekh and Wang.

Applicants believe that the canceling of claims 11-42 without prejudice or disclaimer renders these rejections moot. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

New Claims 43-49

Applicants submit that new claims 43-49 are allowable over the cited references.

Somekh and Wang both teach of using robots that can move a reticle plate holding a reticle only in one plane. Somekh and Wang both fail to teach or suggest a system having at least a robot connector including a mounting bracket coupled at an angle with respect to the mounting plate and a connector configured to be coupled to a robot arm, whereby using the robotic arm the reticle plate can be rotated around the axis, as recited in claim 43.

Therefore, none of the applied references (Somekh or Wang) taken either alone or in obvious combination, teach at least a robot connector including a mounting bracket coupled at an angle with respect to the mounting plate and a connector configured to be coupled to a robot arm, whereby using the robotic arm the reticle plate can be rotated around the axis, as recited in claim 43. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner find claim 43 allowable

over the applied references. Also, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner find dependent claims 44-49 allowable.

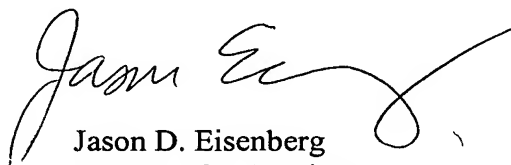
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Jason D. Eisenberg
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,447

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600